

# 50

## Insane facts about Ireland

IRELAND SOMETIMES GETS AN IMAGE OF BEING ALL SHAMROCKS, LEPRECHAUNS AND GUINNESS. BUT THE EMERALD ISLE IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT, AND IT BOASTS A RICH HERITAGE, CULTURE AND CUISINE. TO ILLUSTRATE OUR POINT, HERE ARE 50 FACTS ABOUT IRELAND.

### GEOGRAPHY

120 Ireland's ranking among the world's nations by size. It is 70,273 square kilometres.

1,041m The height of Ireland's highest peak, Carrauntoohil.

3rd

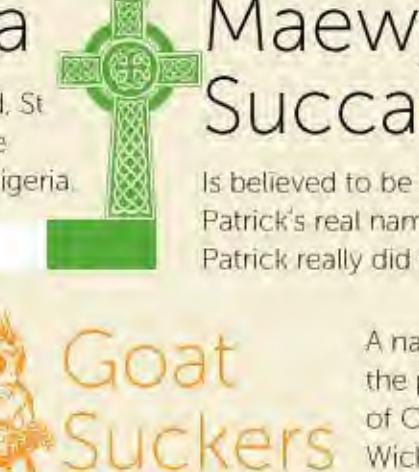
Ireland's rank in a list of European islands by size.

Zinc

Ireland is home to Europe's largest zinc mine.

1,365

The number of kilometres of railway for use solely by Irish Peat Board for transporting peat.

 Black Pool  
Irish capital Dublin began life as Dubh Linn, which means 'Black Pool'.

### HISTORY

 The White House  
Was designed by Irishman James Hoban, who won a competition in 1792 allowing him to create the building.

2,000 The number of years hurling, an ancient Gaelic sport, has been around.

25 The number of minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time Irish clocks used to be set at. This was called Dublin Mean Time.

WW2

Ireland didn't enter the Second World War, choosing to remain neutral. Some Irish men nonetheless left the Irish Army to join the British Army.

### PEOPLE

Sir James Martin

An engineer from Co. Down who invented the world's first ejector seat.



Obama

President Obama claims Irish heritage, his great great grandfather emigrated from Ireland to the US.

Nigeria

As well as Ireland, St Patrick is also the patron saint of Nigeria.

Maewyn Succat

Is believed to be St Patrick's real name. St Patrick really did exist.

126 The number of times Robbie Keane has played football for Ireland, making him the country's most capped player.

Boycott

The word originated in Ireland after landowner Charles Boycott refused to drop his rents. A 'boycott' took place.

Polish

The largest group of non-Irish people living in Ireland. It used to be people from the UK.

Goat Suckers

A name for the people of County Wicklow.

Leprosy cure

Cork man Vincent Barry led a medical research team that ultimately led to a treatment for leprosy.

70 million

The number of people in the world who claim to have Irish heritage.

### FOOD AND DRINK

10 million

The number of glasses of Guinness drunk around the world every day.

Crubbeens and Drisheen

Are Irish delicacies. Crubbeens are pigs' trotters, drisheen is a sausage of beef and sheep's blood.

1840s

The decade Ireland was introduced to Bicarbonate of Soda, which gave rise to Irish Soda Bread.

1,184

The number of cups of tea drunk by the average Irish person each year, making it the biggest tea-drinking nation per capita.

Ossified, flustered, scuttled

Various Irish words used to mean 'drunk'.

115 million

€

22

The number of Grammy awards won by Irish rockers U2.

1,693

The number of people who Riverdanced in Dublin to earn their place in the world records for the most people dancing in a continuous line.

1876

The year Guinness registered the harp as its symbol. This was before it became the national symbol of Ireland.

76.8

The percentage of the Irish population that uses the internet (2011).

25%

The percentage of people in Ireland who claim to be fluent in Irish. Language experts claim it could be as low as 3%.

7

Eurovision

The number of times Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest, more than any other nation.

1995

The year Playboy magazine became legal in Ireland.

80.44

The average life expectancy at birth in Ireland.

95%

The alcohol by volume (ABV) figure of some Irish Poitin. The drink used to be illegal.

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